

## [Human Interest Snap Shots]

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Subject - The Shoeworker of Lynn Copy - 1 1938-9 Mass. 1/26/39 Section 9 [? page?] use with Section [??] HUMAN INTEREST SNAP SHOTS

"There wuz a shoe manufacturer I worked fur once that sure wuz stubborn about changin' the style a shoes he made.

" 'I make shoes,' he said, 'not all this fol de rol that won't stand up.' This wuz about the time that the findin' a King Tut, made the whole world jest crazy ta wear shoes like wuz on that ol' guy when they dug him outa his tomb.

"Well, everyone that knowed anything about the shoe business, knowned knowed that the manufacturer 'uld hauta havta put out low fancy shoes, 'stead a the good old long wearin' standard high shoes like we wuz usta makin'. But Patrick ————, he din't think so, an' he wuzn't goin' ta have his shop make 'em.

"But his son now was diffrunt. He wuz in the shop too an' he wan't afraid a change like his old man. So when ever he could, he'd keep the old man outa the shop, and he'd have us make the new kinda shoes while he wuz gone.

"One day the old man come in and seen some a 'em an the racks.

"He growled pretty laud loud at first but his son talked turpey turkey to him. An' he give in completely when he seen 2 the orders for them now low shoes pourin' in. [? page?]

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“ 'sure'n give 'em what they want,' he shouted, 'if they only last 'em ten minutes!'" 3 used with [10?] LOW SHOES ON A WOMAN

“ 'she wears low shoes.'

“When ya heard that siad said 'bout a woman in winter time fifty years ago ya'd think she was either crazy or kinda immoral or maybe an actress.

“Streets way wuz muddy in them days there wuzn't many sidewalks, an' a woman had to walk when she wuz goin' down town. She had to have somethin' comfortable to wade through mud with.

“If she had more money than ordinary an' rode behind a fine pair, 'stead a walkin', why then she most gennerally had a pair a French kid shoes fur best.

“She'd a had them made special fur her at one a them little shops that wuz still makin' shoes by band. She'd stop an' leave her measurements when she ordered 'em. That wuz stylish to do then. If ya wuz somebody, ya had your own special shoemaker jest like some men have their tailor today.” 4 To [follow?] section I- p 7. SHOEMAKING SEASONS

“When I wuz in the shops there wuz three seasons. In summer season we made shoes fur the southern niggers, called the Southern / Trade. Them wuz made a heavy leather and most always not even in pairs. Jest tied together in twos an' dumped in a box fur shippin'. [no ?] “ After the southern trade wuz over, we started on the western trade. That wuz a good heavy shoe too; but it wuz made better'n the shoe that went in too southern trade. “ The pick a the seasons wuz the New England trade. Them wuz the most stylish shoes made, the shoes that wuz sold in Boston, New York ant all the big cities. The shops like ta make them shoes the best 'cause there wuz the most money in 'em. Same a the shop shops din't make nothin' else but most a 'em had ta make the other shoes too ta keep goin' an' ta keep the help, when the New England trade wuz over. “ The biggest rush a the year wuz while we wuz makin' the New England trade between the first a the year an' Easter.

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Coun't get no time off then 'less ya wanted to get fired, soon's the season wuz over. We'd work till after dark five days a week and right on up to five aclock on Saturday nights. Once in a while if a fella or a girl'd 5 wanta go ta Boston on a Saturday nights they'd give ya your pay early, say at four aclock. " But a course, the more ya worked, the more ya'd get too. So durin' February an' March we sure put in long hours. We always had all the work we could do in them months. " By the Fourth a July, the dull season'd begin in the New England trade. Then most a the shops'd start makin' shoes fur the Southern trade. That wuz the longest season a the year. It lasted on into the Fall an' the season when some a the shops 'uld be makin' fur the Western trade. " By Thanksgivin' there wuz a dull season that'uld last 'till after Christmas. " 6 A DEAD HORSE " A dead horse wuz was work ya you got paid fur for before ya you finished it. Say ya you had a half a case done at the end a of the week. Well, ya you could have the hull whole case put on the books as done, and ya'd you'd get your money fur for it. But then on the next Monday mornin' morning ya'd you'd have that empty case ta to do, and no pay fur for it. A dead horse sure looked dead on Monday mornin' morning .

"The foreman 'uld 'duld be the one responsible fur for gettin' getting the dead horses done, fur for be he wuz was the one that let the help give 'em in, often unbeknowst unbeknownst ta to the owner.

" An' And sometimes a workers especially a cutter 'uld 'duld spin skin out, quit his job an' and the foreman 'uld 'duld be left with a whopper of a dead horse ta to explain. An' And say if that dead horse wuz was eight or ten cases, it 'uld 'duld be considerable ta to explain.

"If the foreman wuz was the right kinda fella fellow , though, we always pitched in and done that dead horse for him. That wuz was a help ta to us too fur for if we din't didn't do that, the boss 'd ['uld?] likely come along an' and say:

" 'there'll be no more dead horses in this shop from now on.'

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"We'd do a lot ta to prevent that 'cause dead horses would be durn handy, when ya you wanted ta buy somethin' something special some week an' and ya you wuz was short a of cash. 7 [?]

"But among the cutters there came ta to be so durn many that spun ( skun ) out on their dead horses, that they come ta to be pretty hard ta to get. Fur For cutters in the old days wuz was like the old class a of printers. [Kinda?] [Kind of?] hoboes. Here today and gone ta morrow. They had the kinda trade that made it easy fur for 'em ta to get a job quick, so they din't have ta to stick ta to one place any longer'n it suited 'em. That made [kinda?] [kind of?] tramps a of 'em.

"If your reputation wuz was reliable though, ya you could always give in a dead horse. Many's the time I done that when I wuz was short a of change some week."